

No Kid Hungry Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2015; 1:00pm – 3:00pm

EverThrive Illinois, 1256 W. Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60642

Attendees:

Present: Janine Hill (*Co-Chair, EverThrive*), Tom Browning (*Co-Chair, Illinois Action for Children*), Bob Dolgan (*GCFD/No Kid Hungry IL*), Suzy Lee (*GCFD/No Kid Hungry IL*), Malaney Varaljay (*GCFD/No Kid Hungry IL*), Mansoor Khadir (*Share Our Strength – D.C. Office*), Joy King-Pike (*Share Our Strength- D.C. Office*), Jenny Epstein (*EverThrive*), Lilah Handler (*EverThrive*), Cecilia Tepani-Fuentes (*EverThrive*), Tatiana Lakshmanan (*EverThrive*), Lolita Lopez (*EverThrive*), Nadeen Israel (*EverThrive*), Maged Hanafi (*USDA Regional Midwest FNS*), Tracy Kelsey (*Northern Illinois Food Bank*), Jonathan Doster (*Ounce of Prevention*), Jill Edelblute (*YMCA of Chicago*)

On the Phone: Barb Karacic (*Beacon Place*); Robin Levy-Brown (*Midwest Dairy Council*), Diane Doherty (*Illinois Hunger Coalition*), Crystal FitzSimons (*FRAC*)

1. Welcome and approval of minutes from last meeting

- Janine Hill welcomed everyone, minutes approved.

2. Introduction of new members, re-introduction of current members

- Roundtable introduction.

3. Summer Food Service Program Update – Suzy Lee, Bob Dolgan

- Kick-off events – 12 throughout the state, generated a lot of activity on social media. The Chicago Kick-off event held at Dunbar Park on June 24th served 740 total meals, 530 to children and the remainder to adults. 14 different partners across city. Media coverage on CBS 2 and radio piece on WBBN.
- Summer site update: 1738 sites currently on FNS website.
- Outreach – No Kid Hungry Illinois distributed 160k pieces of print materials in addition to the 400k pieces ISBE printed and shared with Chicago Public Schools (CPS). New partners in material distribution – ACCESS, Chicago Community Action Policing (CAPS), Chicago Public Libraries, WIC Centers, elected officials' offices and GCFD agencies. We'll still see an uptick in sites, about 300 more. Last year we had about 2200 total between SFSP and SSO. Diane brought up the issues with sites showing up incorrectly in the site data system for the Hunger Hotline. Maged to follow up with Amy Bianco and Mark Haller at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to ensure we have the most up to date site information.
- COFI (Community Organizing Family Issues) canvassing neighborhoods - North Lawndale, Cicero and Englewood. This is our first year doing a suburban neighborhood.
- Maged – target meal numbers: in 2013 served 5.6 million meals, in 2014 hit target and served 6.4 million. Our target for 2015 is 7 million.
- Bob shared checklist of actions folks can take to spread the word – Like and Follow us on social media, distribute flyers and make face to face interactions.

4. Policy Overview

- **Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) Update – Mansoor Khadir**
 - o Share Our Strength (SOS) is working on the national level with chefs, stakeholders and key advocates talking to folks on the Senate committee and asking for support while also working with local partnerships across the country to activate their local networks and delegations, visit summer meals sites and equip them with information on CNR.

- Current letter of support - visit nokidhungry.org/summer to sign on. Letter will be presented to members of Congress to show diversity of support we have behind CNR in the country. It is general with recommendations, not a position paper.
- Actions: sign pledge letter; get local congressional leaders to visit sites and equip them with knowledge, coordinate trips to the Hill, highlight impact stories and be active on social media messaging; send out press releases - SOS can provide templates.
- **CNR Update – Crystal FitzSimons**
 - Timing - in communications with the House Education and Workforce Committee and Senate Agriculture Committee, they do want to move forward with CNR this year although it is unclear whether this will actually happen – it either needs to be reauthorized by September 30th or a resolution needs to be passed.
 - Two bills FRAC is focused on:
 - **Summer Meals Act** – bipartisan in both House and Senate. Goals: 1) allow non-school sponsors to run year-round and not switch between SFSP and CACFP, follows SFSP rules; 2) change area eligibility requirements to 40% free and reduced price; 3) provide funding for transportation grants in underserved and rural areas; 4) allow all summer meals sites to provide third meal.
 - **Stop Child Summer Hunger Act** – summer EBT – provide every family with child that is qualified to receive free and reduced price meals with a \$50 EBT card
 - Action: sign on to both bills on the FRAC legislation page on website.
 - Tom - how do these bills fit in to the current CNR? If enough support is shown through co-sponsorship, the House Ed and Workforce Committee staff will put it into CNR.
- **State Budget – Nadeen Israel**
 - House and Senate democrats sent budget bills to Governor Rauner's office yesterday with 2.25% cuts. There are 21 budget bills all together and the Governor has vetoed 19 of them. The two bills that were signed - 1) large piece of educational budget and for early child nutrition and 2) back wages for state workers. The Governor has stated that he will not have a conversation about revenue until there is some agreement on his turnaround agenda (which is not related to the budget). Therefore everything is still up in the air, we're at a stalemate.
 - Advocacy – the Ounce and EverThrive have drafted an organizational letter (300 have signed on in three days), sign on option closes end of day. They intend to do press releases around the letter on June 30th. There will be lots of activity in terms of rallies and press conferences in July.
 - Maged – what will specifically shut down if there is no budget? Either a short term budget is implemented or they issue contracts to employees who will be affected. At this point none of those things have happened and it is the non-profit sector and families that are suffering as a result, with program shutdowns, layoffs, etc. Jill points out that on Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) website there are contracts but employees won't get paid until the budget is decided.
- **Breakfast Resolution – Suzy Lee**
 - At the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) Lobby Day on May 6th – 250 advocates talked to 98 elected officials about the Breakfast Resolution. In the House, HR398 passed and was adopted with 3 co-sponsors - Rep. Will Davis, Rep. Rita Mayfield and Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez. Senate version SR339 was adopted and passed on May 6th and was co-sponsored by Sen. Don Harmon, Sen. Jacqueline Collins, Sen. Patricia Van Pelt, Sen. Julie Morris, Sen. Emil Jones. On May 6th, three members joined the Hunger Caucus – Sen. Dan Kotowski, Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie and Rep. Will Davis.

- Background on numbers – 1376 schools are at 70% free and reduced price. Only 45.2% of these schools are reaching the students that are eligible with breakfast. If we got those schools to 70% breakfast participation, over 100k more children would be served.
- No Kid Hungry Illinois team will proceed with a report on financial sustainability of alternative model breakfast in the highest needs schools. This will be presented to the General Assembly on November 4th. This is not the actual legislation.

- **Illinois SB1847 – Bob Dolgan**

- This is the SNAP reform bill (introduced by GCFD, the Shriver Center and Heartland Alliance as part of the Commission's Benefits Access Workgroup strategy) that was advocated for in Springfield at the Hunger Summit and on Lobby Day. The bill would raise the SNAP eligibility income guidelines from 130% of the federal poverty rate to 165%, increasing access of these benefits to 40k working families in Illinois. The investment from the state is minimal. The bill passed in the House and Senate.
- Sign on letter – all eight Feeding Illinois food banks have signed on in support of this bill and we encourage all other partner organizations to do so as well.

5. Providing meals during school strikes – Bob Dolgan

- Ad hoc group – Barb Karacic, Mark Haller, Amy Bianco, Bob Dolgan. ISBE does have a plan for strikes and the ad hoc group created a reference sheet that can be posted on the Rise and Shine (R&S) Illinois and ISBE web pages. Draft presented in meeting and to be approved. Plan outline: once ISBE receives word that a strike is going to happen, the NKH Workgroup will be informed and will then reach out to community partners and SFSP sponsors to mobilize action. Maged - we can have a plan in place but there is still from a school district side, a political component. The USDA has an emergency food/strike strategy that the FNS created and Maged will circulate. Includes emergency strike plan for all nutrition programs. There needs to be better coordination between CACFP and SFSP in order to respond in these critical situations.
- Diane suggested reaching out to Illinois Education Association and food service workers to inquire about their level of involvement and what their thoughts are on the issue. Bob to follow up with Diane regarding.

6. Latest Poverty and Hunger Data Funding Update – Bob Dolgan

- Recent data related to hunger and poverty. See handout.
- **Funding sources for Rise & Shine Illinois and NKH work** – Share Our Strength and private support to GCFD
 - Breakfast
 - Private funding concludes June 30th in breakfast work so we will no longer have most of our Breakfast Coordinators; keep on the lookout for additional funding sources. Grants for schools are funded through next year. Grant turnaround is about 3 weeks. There were 18 submissions for the June 15th deadline and 10k is available to distribute. 10k will also be available for the October deadline. In total, No Kid Hungry has awarded 80k so far this year and there is 100k available in the next FY.
 - After-school grant awards
 - 15 applications submitted for the April 15th deadline. 10k was awarded to 6 organizations (Northern Illinois Food Bank, Casa Central, City of Evanston, Church of Peace, Catholic Charities, Urbana Neighborhood Connections), primarily for equipment and outreach materials. The next deadline is August 15th, applications are accepted on rolling basis through November 15. \$7500 available for each deadline, up to \$2500 per grantee.
 - Diane - how are the grants advertised? Via email to current At-Risk and SFSP sponsors, posting on No Kid Hungry Illinois and Rise & Shine websites, the R&S newsletter, ISBE Superintendent letter, and other member newsletters and outreach.

- Tom - for those that applied and were not awarded grants, do we explain to them why and what they can do improve? Most applicants that did not receive the grants were not eligible or still in the CACFP sponsor approval process with ISBE and have been put on hold until the next deadline. NKH is thinking of offering a grant writing workshop.
- Maged recommended looking at hospitals for At-Risk engagement, used example of Minnesota.
- Malaney informed of Share Our Strength Supper in the Classroom and Umbrella Model pilot grants.

7. Cooking Matters Update – Lolita Lopez

- Met over 100% goal for all projected numbers
- Losing Americorps volunteer, Tatiana. They do not have funding for an additional position so keep on the lookout for any sources or opportunities.
- Potential for Chicago nutrition education partner summit – bring together key stakeholders in nutrition to meet and develop a strategic plan for working together and looking at funding sources that can be used collaboratively, as everyone has limited resources.
- EverThrive is looking at new creative ways to utilize their current skillset to expand programming while running with limited staff and funding.
 - Train the Trainer model – train sites to become satellite sites. They have five existing and just added three. Over the summer they'll will be working at site in Englewood.
- Grocery Store Tours – had a larger scale event at a grocery store on MLK day and brought in over 75 participants. The large event model allows for more partnership opportunities and generates greater awareness – looking to replicate this model over the summer and in the future.

8. Other Updates

- Janine Hill – Hunger Summit, May 6th in Springfield - over 300 people in attendance including new Commission to End Hunger Co-Chair, Janice Glenn, from the Office of Governor Rauner as well as the Lieutenant Governor and Governor Rauner, who all spoke.
- Maged Hanafi – presented Farm to Preschool program and encouraged members to visit USDA website and share with networks.
- Jonathon Doster – shared Center for American Progress Report on how CACFP affects early childhood development. Will send link to Bob.

9. Next Steps

- Spread word out about summer meals
- Continue to watch points coming out about CNR
- Keep up to date on budget
- Follow up with Mark Haller about updating/entering summer sites
- Host conference call over the summer if anything moves forward on CNR
- **Next Meeting:** September 24th at EverThrive